

Social Security Administration

§ 404.1720

claim or have requested reconsideration; with an administrative law judge if you requested a hearing; or with the Appeals Council if you have requested a review of the administrative law judge's decision.

§ 404.1710 Authority of a representative.

(a) *What a representative may do.* Your representative may, on your behalf—

(1) Obtain information about your claim to the same extent that you are able to do;

(2) Submit evidence;

(3) Make statements about facts and law; and

(4) Make any request or give any notice about the proceedings before us.

(b) *What a representative may not do.* A representative may not sign an application on behalf of a claimant for rights or benefits under title II of the Act unless authorized to do so under § 404.612.

§ 404.1715 Notice or request to a representative.

(a) We shall send your representative—

(1) Notice and a copy of any administrative action, determination, or decision; and

(2) Requests for information or evidence.

(b) A notice or request sent to your representative, will have the same force and effect as if it had been sent to you.

§ 404.1717 Demonstration project on direct payment of fees to non-attorneys.

(a) Section 303 of the Social Security Protection Act of 2004 (SSPA), Public Law 108-203, requires the Commissioner of Social Security (Commissioner) to develop and implement a 5-year nationwide demonstration project that extends attorney fee withholding and direct payment procedures to any non-attorney representative who meets minimum prerequisites for participating in the project specified in section 303 of the SSPA and any additional prerequisites prescribed by the Commissioner. The objective of the demonstration project is to determine the effect of extending to certain non-

attorneys the fee withholding and direct payment procedures that apply to attorneys. A final report on the results of the demonstration project is to be completed and transmitted to Congress within 90 days of the project termination date, February 28, 2010.

(b) As used in this subpart, the term “eligible to participate in the direct payment demonstration project” refers to the status of a non-attorney who we have determined meets the prerequisites for participation in the demonstration project.

(c) The provisions of section 303 authorizing the direct payment of fees to non-attorneys and the withholding of title II benefits for that purpose apply in claims for benefits with respect to which the agreement for representation is entered into after February 27, 2005, and before March 1, 2010.

[72 FR 16724, Apr. 5, 2007]

§ 404.1720 Fee for a representative's services.

(a) *General.* A representative may charge and receive a fee for his or her services as a representative only as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Charging and receiving a fee.* (1) The representative must file a written request with us before he or she may charge or receive a fee for his or her services.

(2) We decide the amount of the fee, if any, a representative may charge or receive.

(3) Subject to paragraph (e) of this section, a representative must not charge or receive any fee unless we have authorized it, and a representative must not charge or receive any fee that is more than the amount we authorize.

(4) If your representative is an attorney, or a non-attorney who is eligible to participate in the direct payment demonstration project, as defined in § 404.1717, and you are entitled to past-due benefits, as defined in § 404.1703, we will pay the authorized fee, or a part of the authorized fee, directly to the representative out of the past-due benefits, subject to the limitations described in § 404.1730(b)(1). If the representative is a non-attorney who is not eligible to participate in the direct